

Science Resource in Peace As Well as For Wartime

(Following is the fourth of six dispatches prepared by the American Society of Newspaper Editors' committee on atomic information in collaboration with the bulletin of the atomic scientists, and distributed by the United Press.)

"Science," said a scientist recently, "is perhaps the major national resource, in peace no less than war."

Scientists mobilized for World War II gave our forces radar to search the oceans and skies, and sonar—sound-ranging—to hunt submarines.

Scientists contributed missiles and rockets to give an attack plane the wallop of a cruiser. They contributed the proximity fuse—which bursts at a pre-set distance in the air from its target—to help win the crucial Battle of the Bulge and help stave off Japan's kamikaze planes. They contributed the bazooka—and of course the A-bomb.

Do we need scientists today to help preserve our precious life—easy peace? Do we need them to save us if any enemy should suddenly attack?

Dr. Frederick Seitz, research professor of physics at the University of Illinois, answers those two questions this week in the March issue—an H-bomb issue—of the bulletin of the atomic scientists.

Dr. Seitz's answer to both questions is "Yes."

If he persuades enough of his colleagues, his article may be remembered as one of the most important of our time.

Frederick Seitz, 38, went to Illinois after posts at the University of Rochester (N. Y.), and Pennsylvania, a stint with General Electric and chairmanship of the physics department at Carnegie Tech. During the war he worked in the Manhattan project, helping develop atomic piles. Later he directed the Oak Ridge, Tenn., institute of nuclear studies.

Two Steps Outlined

Today this scientist believes his colleagues should take two steps to support "western civilization."

First, seek worldwide peace. Second, do research for war.

He calls for a new government agency to organize research, just as the OSRD—the office of scientific research and development, headed by Dr. Vannevar Bush—successfully did during World War II.

Professor Seitz warned in 1948 that "a foreign nation" could very possibly overtake us within five years. Now he makes two main points:

1. Russia seems to be developing atomic energy "at least five times" faster than we. "There is grave danger they will surpass us" within a decade and "the same is probably true in other fields."

2. "Who among us," he asks, "will feel unless if he has remained passively by while western culture was being overwhelmed?"

To co-exist at peace with the Soviet Union and resist being "overwhelmed," he believes we must "make it impractical" for Russia to follow her policy of expansion and international communism. He believes complete neutrality will not do the job.

He believes in peace as the primary goal—and in preparedness only as a tool to strengthen our hand. He will consider any "vigorous" peace plan within or without the United Nations, including world or Atlantic union. He would continue to support non-communist nations.

Disarmament Supported

He will support international disarmament if all nations disarm, and if inspection is adequate. To bargain, he would be willing, like Senator McMahon, to offer the Soviets economic aid.

He does not believe we can afford to refrain from accelerating our arms program beyond 1950. He maintains "even a delay of this length may be unwise."

What would happen if we let Russia overrun all western Europe? "She would probably double her industrial strength and military output," he says, and after a decade we might never match her.

Therefore, he says, the West must become so strong Russia could not attack "without grave danger to herself." We can reduce strength only when "a general agreement has been reached under conditions which indicate Russia has sincere intentions of keeping it."

He doubts that any other policy could offer fewer risks. Readiness for the Berlin airlift, he points out, enabled us to outmaneuver Russia. Many still-free Europeans believe, he points out, that only our A-bombs have kept the Soviets from their borders.

What Effort Needed?

"What effort is required?" asks the physicist. He estimates Soviet production at a third of America's, but believes "well over half" of that is devoted to arms. Russia's effort, this means, probably equals 15 or 20 per cent of U. S. production. But the West's entire arms output now totals less than 10 per cent of American production.

To match Russia, moreover, he believes we must increase both "the seriousness with which we take" preparation, and the amount of top talent we spend. Seitz then calls for the new OSRD "under one of the vigorous wartime leaders" whom scientists trust, as an organization "basically civilian," to explore the military use of discoveries in the pattern of initiative and freedom "that reflects the best western ideals."

Can we successfully build such an agency?

We cannot, he warns. Convincing Scientists

1. Unless scientists can be convinced such a program will not kill fundamental—as contrasted with applied—science. During the war our reserve of basic facts—on which all applications such as radar or an A-bomb must rest—grew thin.

"The best one can hope for is some sort of compromise," Seitz concedes. But a stitch in time may prevent complete upset later.

Both industrial and university scientists, he proposes, might share tours of duty in the government service.

2. Unless scientists overcome "moral" objections to research they feel may be "misused." Here Professor Seitz preaches his moral: "Who among us will feel unless if he has remained passively by . . . ?"

3. Unless the public abandons its "far too optimistic picture of our own superiority to Russia," and prepares, if necessary, to cut even our standard of living. If we must wait "a Pearl Harbor," he warns, we may already have reached the point of "certain defeat."

People Must Learn

4. Unless the people and their representatives in Washington finally learn the meaning of progress, and start encouraging instead of hounding government scientists. For almost every scientist in the United States today is disillusioned with government service.

Scientists, Seitz explains, believe current secrecy methods "do far more harm than good, because they interrupt the free flow of information" and "provide a false sense of security."

Scientists feel government investigators have smeared individuals "on grounds which bear little resemblance to individual guilt." They believe many congressmen have no idea how "to obtain the most" from our scientists.

It is by no means sure, Seitz concludes, that a nation in the midst of a great crisis will establish a successful civilian research organization.

The Germans in World War II "failed miserably," because they controlled their scientists to death, and failed to temper government with tolerance and freedom.

Hobby Fair Set At Camp White On Sunday, April 2

A Hobby fair, sponsored by the arts and crafts department of Camp White domiciliary center and veterans' administration volunteer organizations, will be held at the center Sunday, April 2. It will be of unusual interest, according to a VAWO spokesman, since all the work to be exhibited has been made by disabled veterans.

All the men who have contributed their work are handicapped in some manner, the spokesman said. Some men are blind, others have the use of only one hand or have done their work in wheel chairs.

Exhibits Named

A few of the men whose work will be shown in the fair are Andrew Pederson, a blind man who weaves rugs; Larry Ward, also blind, who also weaves rugs; Hans Sorenson, who makes gem stone jewelry; Tommy Thompson, who writes poetry; Wayne New, who has an arrowhead collection, and Lee Winkler, who has a very fine exhibit of water color paintings.

Other exhibits include hand-carved wooden dishes, copper plaques, hand-tooled leather goods, a photograph of all kinds, including trick photography; handmade baskets, stories, novelty engraving and plastic novelties.

Hours for viewing the exhibit, which is open to the public, are from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. There will be no charge.

AWOL Soldier Held On Murder Charges

Des Moines, Ia., Mar. 24—U. S. Thomas Ellis, 17-year-old AWOL soldier, was returned to Des Moines from Helena, Mont., today and ordered arraigned April 6 for the murder of an elderly widow.

Ellis was taken into district court shortly after his arrival on a habeas corpus writ filed by his attorneys, Verne Lawler and James McDowell.

They said the writ was a move to get Ellis into court before Polk County Sheriff Howard C. Reppert and State Agent Robert Gregson could take him to the home of his alleged victim to reenact her stabbing.

Judge C. Edwin Moore dismissed the writ and delayed arraignment until April 6 at the request of McDowell and Lawler, who said they wanted Ellis examined by mental experts to determine whether he is "capable of entering a plea."

A \$10 first prize and ribbons will be awarded in each of the 10 categories in which the men can enter their work. A \$25 prize will be awarded for the most unique exhibit. Prizes are being furnished by veterans' administration volunteer organizations. Over 30 men will enter work in the fair.

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Babson Discusses Teaching Workers

By Roger Babson

Washington, Mar. 24—(Special to Mail Tribune)—Private ownership has lost the support of millions of workers. Why? Because management has never taken the time to bridge the gap between the front office and the shop with the romantic story of the American free enterprise system.

The Workers' Attitude Toward Education

We have assumed that the schools have been giving our youth an understanding of various economic systems and then pointing out the advantages of American free enterprise. The schools have done the job. Ask a few simple questions of anyone in your own family and you will see what I mean. They have failed in this as in teaching spelling and arithmetic.

Get your ear to the ground in your own shop and I will warrant you will be plain scared when you find how many workers believe management is just raking in the dough. They will even quote you figures:

"The boss gets 75 cents of each dollar and we poor suckers get a miserable 25 cents!"

And wait until you hear what they think about profit reserves! They are convinced that stockholders have only one interest. To grow rich by exploiting the workers. Down with all stockholders!

Talk about advertising—that is a foolish waste of money. If the company was really interested in the worker it would give him the money it spends for advertising! In short, too many wage-workers honestly believe that stockholders rob them of a rightful living; they think that the government should take over and do away with profits.

Management's Attitude Discussed Also

Can responsible free business survive with an antagonistic working force? The answer to this is an emphatic "No." Management has too often looked upon the worker as a "hired man." With this attitude, management must defend its prerogatives, or "goodbye" to American supremacy.

I wonder how many businessmen have recognized the significance of what General Eisenhower said about the "inseparable ability of all the freedoms."

If you really believe that some of our freedoms cannot be kept while others are flung to the winds, then you believe that all our personal, political and social freedoms can survive only with the survival of our economic freedom—which includes freedom to work, to own, to save, to sell, to buy, to compete, and to bargain honestly without the use of force by either side.

Sell American Way Urged On Business

If you are really enthusiastic about the American way, a system that enables six per cent of the world's population to out-produce the other 94 per cent, why have you kept it a secret? Why haven't our employees learned that the American system provides more goods and services than any other system in the world—in spite of its imperfections.

The time is now to sell America. Dig up the facts. Toss out some comparative statistics. Bring in D. P.'s who have lived under communism and socialism to tell how they fared as workers. Use your PA system, house organ, posters, supervisors to give the worker information he wants and needs.

Let him know what it costs to own and maintain a factory, repair and replace equipment, provide power, labor and materials, the cost of waste . . . and don't forget taxes!

What About Profits, Babson Also Asks

There has been a lot of loose talk about profits. We should show wage-workers how company reserves mean protection for their jobs, how they should encourage venture capital. A few statistics on advertising should be helpful reminding workers that the fellow on the next machine got his job as a result of the company spending more on advertising.

It won't be hard to prove that the fellow who thinks it is OK to soak the employer with taxes is just soaking himself in the long run. Every employee should know how much capital it takes to provide him with his job.

I have faith in the intelligence of our employees; but management must build a friendly bridge between the front office and the back shop. The free enterprise system succeeds when the white and blue collars work together.

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